

# STATE POLICE IN FULL CHARGE OF HALL-MILLS CASE

## Investigation to Be Con- ducted From Somerville Under Their Direction

The re-opened investigation of the Hall-Mills murder will be conducted from Somerville hereafter, it was announced by Prosecutor John E. Toolan, following a conference between the prosecutor, state police, Jersey City detectives and County Detective Ferd A. David at the latter's office last night. The investigation will be under the supervision of Captain John J. Lamb of the state police.

The shift of the scene of operations back to Somerville whence all matters pertaining to the investigation will be conducted, does not necessarily mean, however, that Prosecutor Toolan will sever his connections with the probe. It is his plan to keep in touch with the progress of the investigation and to "drop in from time to time and see how things are going" he informed reporters.

The conclusion of the conference, which started at 9 a. m. yesterday and finished shortly before 9 o'clock last evening, and at which Chief David, Captain Lamb, Captain Harry Walsh and Detective Burke of Jersey City, and State Trooper McManus attended, brought to light no further disclosures save the acknowledgement of the fact that another clue had been run to earth and had proven worthless.

Two witnesses were questioned for almost two hours by the detectives but, according to a statement issued later, were found to know little about the case. They were Mr. and Mrs. C. Sipel of Middlebush.

Prosecutor Bergen of Somerset county has turned over to Captain Lamb all of the data relating to the case and will probably only render whatever aid may be asked of him by those directly assigned to the case.

Not much progress has been made thus far in the investigation, it was stated after the conference last evening, but the detectives will continue to look up all possible leads and check back all memoranda, statements and records in their possession for definite verification.

There will be one or two more witnesses called before the present phase of the investigation is fully covered, Prosecutor Toolan stated. Whether or not others will be called can be determined only by the findings of the investigators.

Prosecutor Toolan spent most of yesterday in Newark and returned here last evening shortly before six o'clock and immediately joined the

July 20-61

conference. At its conclusion he announced the decision to continue the investigation from Somerville.

"I have pulled all of my men from the case," Prosecutor Toolan said. "They are saturated with it and have been damned with commendation for not cracking it, and I feel that, this time, someone else should bear the burden of the case."

"I have no official authority, of course," he said, "as the murders were committed in Somerset county. But I will aid personally in the investigation in every way possible."

"We don't care whether the others drop out," Major Mark A. Kimberling of the State police declared. "The State police are going to carry on until satisfied that the mystery cannot be solved."